

Toc H Birthday Festival

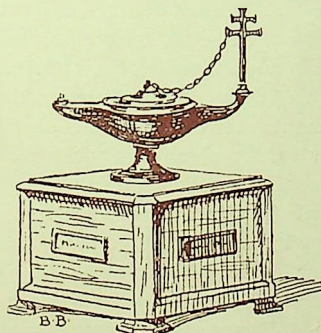
at the
ROYAL ALBERT HALL.



Performance of a Masque

“FOUR POINTS OF THE COMPASS”

to take place at 8 p.m. on Saturday, 8th December
and Wednesday, 12th December, 1928.



SYNOPSIS.

THE MASQUE will take the same lines as the previous performances in 1925 and 1926 in that it will consist of Drama, Pageantry and Music. It will be performed this year in the Arena of the Royal Albert Hall and produced by Mr. Fairbairn. There will be four episodes illustrating the Four Points of the Toc H Compass, namely, "To Think Fairly," "To Love Widely," "To Witness Humbly," "To Build Bravely."

There is a short prologue, representing the close of a Toc H meeting; the Secretary remains behind and falls to sleep. The meeting has been discussing the Four Points of the Compass and as to how far they can be put into practical effect. In the Secretary's dream the figure representing the spirit of Toc H appears to him and shows him how the principles of these four points have been carried out in the past. The first three incidents are taken from actual historical facts:—

"TO THINK FAIRLY."

This introduces William Penn and an Indian Chief who joined together in making the Charter which governed the relationship between the Indians and the early settlers in America. We then see how this Charter was carried into effect. A meeting of Quakers was being held in a log hut in the forest. The hut is attacked by Indians, but the Quakers—men, women and children—remain seated in silent prayer. Their attitude so affects the attackers, that they declare peace with the Quakers who then go out from the meeting singing a hymn.

"TO LOVE WIDELY."

This represents a scene in the life of St. Francis. The Arena is occupied by three different bands of Mediæval characters; Some Italian merchants with their servants, a band of beggars, and country harvesters. At the opening of the episode, the beggars are seated, quarrelling and gambling round their camp fire. The merchants come in and unloading their packs, sit down and commence drinking. The Harvesters enter and do a country dance. At the close of the country dance, one of the drunken merchants sings a song. As he finishes, St. Francis enters singing with his Friars and they sit themselves on a rocky eminence in the centre and commence to eat their mid-day meal of bread and fruit. The children's ballet, representing birds, enter and dance towards St. Francis, who scatters crumbs to them. They dance in and out the other parties in the Arena who try to catch them and throw things at them. They run away and huddle together in a corner. While the birds are dancing, the beggars take the opportunity of robbing the merchants' goods. A free fight ensues and St. Francis and his Friars go in among them and gradually conciliate them and bring them together and they, with the birds, collect round St. Francis who concludes the episode by singing the Canticle of Praise.

"TO WITNESS HUMBLY."

St. Amphibolus and the congregation of Christians are worshipping at a stone altar. Alban, a Roman Centurion, joins them and declares his conversion and presents himself for baptism. He is baptised. The approach of Roman Troops is heard and he sends the Christians away, placing his cloak and helmet on St. Amphibolus, remains himself before the Altar disguised in the white mantle and hood of the Saint.

The Roman Governor enters with his Lictor and escort. They arrest the man whom they assume is a Christian Priest and after sacrificing on the Altar to Cæsar they call on him to do the same. On his refusal, they pull off his coat and discover Alban. He is bound and prepared for execution. As the Negro lictor raises his axe there is a roll of thunder and a flash of lightning. The negro drops his axe and kneels at the feet of Alban who raises him up and kisses him. They are both seized and taken off for execution.

"TO BUILD BRAVELY."

The parent Lamp of Toc H is brought in under escort and carried across the Arena. At the North end it meets the procession of Branches and Groups headed by William Penn, St. Francis, St. Amphibolus, St. Alban, Joan of Arc, David Livingstone and other heroes of the past. The Spirit of Toc H challenges them, "who goes there," to which they reply "The Builders of the Kingdom." They are led by the Spirit of Toc H up the Arena where they form a double cross. Their Lamps and Rushlights are lit for the Toc H Ceremony of Light which is concluded by the singing of "Jerusalem."

The music used throughout the episodes will include the whole of that used in 1925, plus the additions in 1926, plus the Canticle of Praise. This will be linked up by other incidental music. The Royal Choral Society are asked to supply the choir, and the Groups in the episodes, with the exception of the Roman procession which will be formed by members of Toc H. We have asked the services of Mr. Harold Williams for the part of St. Francis. Each episode will consist of separate performers so that immediately after the episode with which they are concerned, they can return and reinforce the main choir. The choir will be accommodated in their usual seats in front of the organ, where they will have an uninterrupted view of the Arena.

The members required for costume parts are:—

FIRST EPISODE.

100 Red Indians. These should all be braves; there is no reason why women should not be made up as such and they need not, therefore, necessarily be all men.

30 Quakers. 10 men, 15 women and 5 children. (Ages of children 10 to 15 years) making 125 adults and 5 children.

SECOND EPISODE.

30 Beggars, approximately 15 men and 15 women.

30 Merchants and their servants. 20 males and 10 females.

30 Friars. Males.

80 Dancers. Being provided by the Folk Dancing Society and the National Academy of Operatic Dancing.

THIRD EPISODE.

50 Christians. 20 men, 20 women and 10 children.

9 Negro Slaves.

20 Roman Soldiers and 15 Roman Citizens. These last to be supplied by Toc H.

Total of Costume Performers from the Royal Choral Society, 235.

The ladies of the Royal Choral Society are asked to supply the children other than those in the ballet.

Rehearsals will take place on the following dates and times:—

24th October:	Episode 1—7.30 p.m.	Episode 2—8.45 p.m.
31st October:	do.	do.
7th November:	do.	do.
14th November:	Episode 2—7.30 p.m.	Episode 3—8.45 p.m.
21st November:	do.	do.
28th November:	Episode 3—7.30	
5th December:	Episode 3—7.30	

The first rehearsal at which all those taking part in all episodes are asked to attend, will be held on 24th October, at 7 p.m., at Regnal House, Eccleston Street, Victoria, S.W. Eccleston Street is close to Victoria Station and leads from Buckingham Palace Road to Belgrave Square. Regnal House, which was formerly known as the Connaught Soldiers' and Sailors' Club, is on the East side of Eccleston Street, about 50 yards from Buckingham Palace Road.

On the receipt of Post Cards we propose to cast the Episodes and notify those who have volunteered as to which Episode they are cast for or if for choir only.

Mr. Fairbairn asks that all performers may attend this first rehearsal so as to be measured for costumes and so that he can explain general details. The Dress Rehearsal will take place on the evening of the 6th December. You are asked to kindly fill up the accompanying stamped postcard and let us have it as soon as possible.

We are very anxious that this performance should be as successful as the previous one and thanks to our good fortune in securing the service of Mr. Fairbairn, we feel sure that with the kind co-operation of the members of the Royal Choral Society, we need not have fear on that score. We are also anxious to get as full a choir as possible.

R. C. GRANT,

General Secretary of Toc H.

1, Queen Anne's Gate, S.W.1.

17th October, 1928.